

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS ROME 000590

SIPDIS

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/SINDELARE  
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; CMP/COT/LBLUM  
ITP/EAMED/MACKE/RICHEY  
OFSTS/LHARBERT/APHIS/ATORRES  
STATE PASS USTR  
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU -  
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE  
MILAN FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER  
UNCLASSIFIED

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FLORENCE FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER  
NAPLES FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [EU](#) [IT](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: ITALIAN BOVINES POSITIVE TO  
BOLDENONE HORMONE

1. MORE THAN 20,000 BOVINES, ALMOST  
EXCLUSIVELY CALVES, WERE FOUND POSITIVE TO  
BOLDENONE STEROID HORMONES AND SEIZED IN 50  
CATTLE FARMS BY THE ANTI-ADULTERATION UNITS  
OF ITALY'S CARABINIERI.

2. THE INVESTIGATION WAS STARTED IN DECEMBER  
2001 WITHIN THE NATIONAL RESIDUE CONTROL  
PROGRAM CONDUCTED BY THE ITALIAN VETERINARIAN  
SERVICE OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH. THE  
OPERATION, WITH RAIDS AT FARMS,  
FEED-PRODUCTION COMPANIES AND VETERINARY  
PRACTICES IN SEVERAL NORTHERN ITALIAN  
REGIONS, LOMBARDIA, PIEMONTE, VENETO, FRIULI,  
EMILIA-ROMAGNA, STILL CONTINUES AND COULD  
INVOLVE MORE ANIMAL AND PEOPLE.  
ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN VETERINARIAN  
SERVICE, BOLDENONE WAS IMPORTED FROM THE U.S.  
AND ILLEGALLY USED TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF  
MUSCLES. ONCE TEST IS CONFIRMED POSITIVE,  
ANIMALS WILL BE DESTROYED. CONFIRMATION  
TESTS HAVE BEEN DONE FOR MANY ANIMALS AND  
RESULTS WERE POSITIVE. HOWEVER, ANIMALS HAVE  
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NOT YET BEEN DESTROYED BECAUSE THEORETICALLY  
BOLDENONE COULD ALSO BE NATURALLY PRESENT IN  
FEED. ITALIAN VETERINARIAN SERVICES ARE  
DOING A SURVEY ON THIS ISSUE. THEY WOULD  
APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION FROM THE U.S.

3. ALTHOUGH ILLEGAL HORMONE USE IS AN  
ADMINISTRATIVE CRIME, THE CHARGE OF  
ADULTERATING FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IS  
CONSIDERED A CRIMINAL ACTION AND INVOLVED  
PEOPLE RISK PRISON.

4. NO CONNECTION EXISTS WITH AN HORMONE  
TRAFFIC BETWEEN SPAIN AND ITALY REPORTED IN  
NOVEMBER 2001. SEMBLER

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